

Lake Pleasant -
Sageville Je -

July 22nd 1857

My dear Debra,

I have not forgotten your parting request to
admit me to my absence. I
but partly fulfilled it in my
letter to Maria from Albany,
& therefore indulge myself with
a few lines to day. I presume
you heard from Mr Phillips
of our safe arrival, as I begged
him to mention it, if he held
any communication with you.

Encouraged I am expecting
to have sure with Mr Chapman
of Boston, one of our party &
hope to be in Cherry Hill on
Friday at 6 P.M. via Albany.

And should remain longer.

I have gained in this
excursion what I most desired
secrecy of place & beauty of
scenery.

Our house which is
large and airy is situated

in the centre of a circumference
of lofty & beautifully undulating
hills. Two lakes form
a semi-circle between us and
the mountains. The air is
delightfully pure and gen-
erally cool. It is the greatest
escape from heat I ever
experienced. The changes in
the landscape are constant
from the shadowy clouds &
the floating vapours. Every
day we have thunder, lightning
& rain but manage to escape
between the drops.

So much for nature now
for man. This has been a rich
view of not a great deal.
Liberty & equality reign &
though we are not of the
world of our fashion, yet
there is equality under the
dominion of dress.

On Sunday we had
service at the little church
& extreme was my surprise
to see a peasant girl enter
whom I might have said

fisher boat & costume to have
come from an Italian village.
I ascertained she was a young,
married woman & saw three
step-children clad in similar
style.

Last Sunday we had three
A.G. ladies & the husband of one
to dine with us. Yesterday we
returned their visit. They have
a baronial castle some seven
miles distant from us on Elm
Lake, built 50 years since by a
German noble. We drive in primitive
fashion in an open wagon but
really quite comfortable. There
could be no approaching the
house the road conducts you
through an avenue of plant
trees, the only access to the
residence. We found our hosts
prepared for us in the hall,
which led out to the piazza
& here a scene of rare beauty
burst upon us. The ground
sloped gently down to the
margin of the lake & on the
opposite shore rose up the

waving mountains with the
vapours playing over them.
I really felt transported into
a land of romance. Shall I
descend to tell you we had
an excellent dinner? In the
afternoon the young ladies saw
A piano had been brought to
this place. Our Miss Lesome
was surpassingly beautiful.
A gorgeous sunset on one side
and the heaviest of clouds
falling on the other made
hurried by the beams of the fire-
sun. The end of a rain-bow
stretcht up from one of the
hills. Our own lake (Pleasant)
shone in the scene with its
mountain encircled in cloud
& its sloping green fields con-
trasting with the darkness
of the coming storm. We
just escaped by 15 minutes
a complete drowning.

We have but one Port-wine
so you can imagine our ex-
cellent last Wednesday when
the mail arrived. The